



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS
Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 04 2008

2008 JUN -7 A 3 15

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Hensarling:

Thank you for your letter of October 23, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding. An identical letter has been sent to each cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2008

The Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

BY MAIL AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of the Texas Congressional Delegation, we are writing to convey our strong support for the joint application for antitrust immunity recently filed by American Airlines in conjunction with its transatlantic oneworld partners—British Airways, Iberia Airlines of Spain, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian. We strongly encourage your expeditious review of this application and urge its approval by the Department of Transportation (DOT).

With its corporate headquarters in Fort Worth, American Airlines employs more than 23,000 employees in Texas and is indirectly responsible for an estimated 165,000 additional jobs throughout the state. From an economic standpoint, it is estimated that American Airlines directly and indirectly generates over \$25 billion in economic activity in Texas. Obviously, the health of this company and its ability to compete effectively on a global basis is of paramount importance to us which is why we are writing you today.

With the Department of Transportation's approval of its application, American Airlines and its transatlantic oneworld partners will be in a position to compete more effectively on a global basis by finally leveling the playing field with other airline alliances that have long enjoyed the exact same approval that American and its partners are seeking with their application.

Once approved by your department, not only the passengers who fly to and from the state of Texas, but travelers around the country will enjoy more convenient and seamless travel to the 663 destinations in 134 countries currently served by American Airlines and its oneworld partners. The fact is that our constituents and the other consumers across the U.S. will enjoy a truly integrated network with more convenient schedules, more flight choices and a greater opportunity to earn and use their frequent flyer benefits around the globe.

Thank you, Madame Secretary, for your consideration. DOT's approval of this application will enhance competition while simultaneously generating significant benefits for our Texas

community—new and expanded transatlantic service, integrated corporate contracts, fare combinability, reciprocal frequent flyer programs, and facility rationalization.

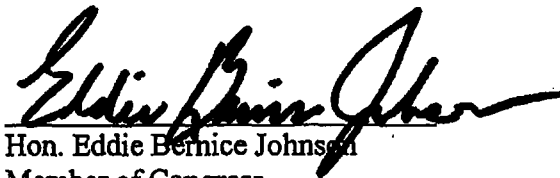
Sincerely,



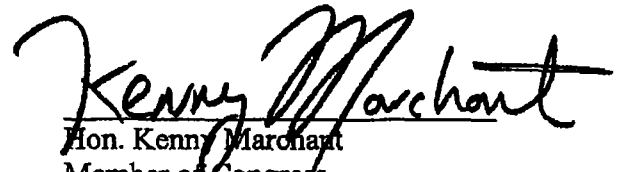
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator



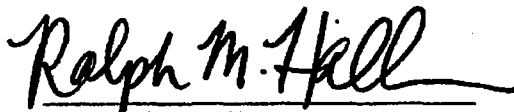
Senator John Cornyn
United States Senator



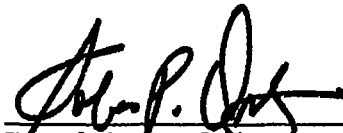
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress



Hon. Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



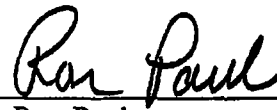
Hon. Ralph Hall
Member of Congress



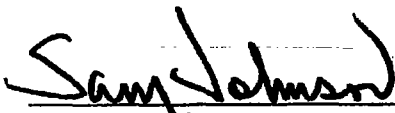
Hon. Solomon Ortiz
Member of Congress



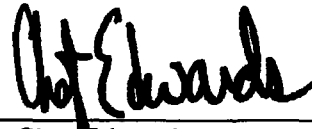
Hon. Joe Barton
Member of Congress



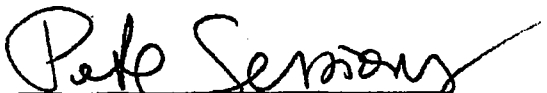
Hon. Ron Paul
Member of Congress



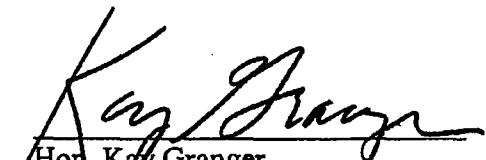
Hon. Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



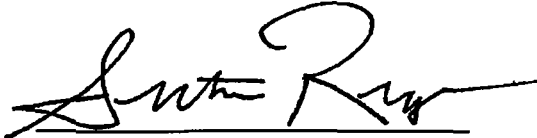
Hon. Chet Edwards
Member of Congress



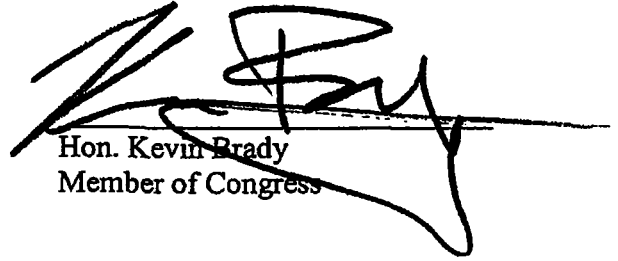
Hon. Pete Sessions
Member of Congress



Hon. Kay Granger
Member of Congress



Hon. Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress



Hon. Kevin Brady
Member of Congress



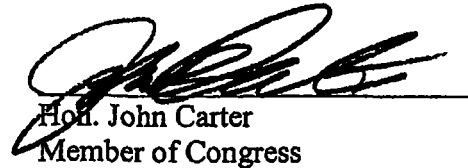
Hon. Nick Lampson
Member of Congress



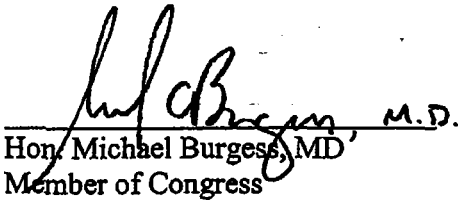
Hon. Charles Gonzalez
Member of Congress



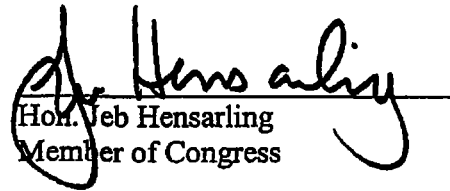
Hon. John Culberson
Member of Congress



Hon. John Carter
Member of Congress



Hon. Michael Burgess, MD
Member of Congress



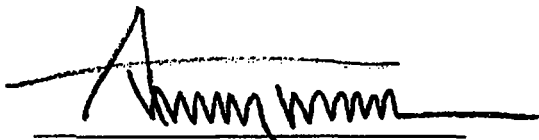
Hon. Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress



Hon. Randy Neugebauer
Member of Congress




Hon. Louis Gohmert
Member of Congress



Hon. Ted Poe
Member of Congress



Hon. Michael McCaul
Member of Congress


Hon. K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress